

REMARKS

Examiner's comments in the Office Action marked "non-final" and dated March 21, 2008 have been read and carefully considered by Applicants. In view of such comments, Applicants have amended the set of claims in the present Application as set forth hereinabove. In particular, independent claims 1, 12, and 21 and also dependent claims 2, 3, 7-11, 16-20, and 22-29 have all been amended to better highlight the patentable differences of Applicants' proposed invention as compared to the prior art cited by Examiner in the Office Action. In so amending these claims, however, Applicants maintain that no new matter has been impermissibly introduced into the present Application. Claims 4-6 and 13-15 have been previously canceled by Applicants. Since no claims have been altogether newly canceled and no entirely new claims have been added herein by Applicants, claims 1-3, 7-12, and 16-29 thus remain pending in Applicants' present Application for Examiner's consideration.

At the present time, it is Applicants' good faith belief that the pending claims, as presented herein, are both novel and non-obvious in view of all known prior art and that the claims properly comply with all applicable statutory requirements. Therefore, Applicants respectfully aver that the pending claims now place the present Application in a condition for allowance and notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Specification:

In the present Amendment, Applicants have amended original paragraph 0035 of the written specification in the Application. (See amended paragraph 0035 as set forth hereinabove.) In particular, Applicants have herein added the word "not" into specification paragraph 0035. Proper support for adding the word "not" into paragraph 0035 can be found in Figure 7 when viewed in context with specification paragraphs 0034 and 0035 of the Application as originally filed by Applicants.

In so amending paragraph 0035 of the specification, Applicants again maintain that no new matter has been impermissibly added to the Application. In view of such, entry of amended specification paragraph 0035 by Examiner is respectfully requested by Applicants.

Objections to the Specification and/or Claims:

In the Office Action, Examiner objected to the written specification and/or claims under 35 U.S.C. § 132(a) as impermissibly introducing new matter into the original disclosure of the Application. In particular, Examiner objected to Applicants' submitting a "substantially amended" set of claims in their Amendment of January 22, 2008 without properly citing specific support from the Application as originally filed for the various limitations set forth in the amended claims.

In response, Applicants are hereinbelow citing specific support from the Application as originally filed for the various limitations now set forth in the amended set of claims.

- For support of element (i) in claim 1, see specification paragraphs 0021-0023 and also feature 34 in Figure 2.
- For support of element (ii) in claim 1, see specification paragraphs 0023-0024 and also feature 38 in Figure 2.
- For support of limitation (a) in claim 1, see specification paragraphs 0023-0026.
- For support of limitation (b) in claim 1, see specification paragraph 0028 and also box 78 in Figure 4.
- For support of limitation (c) in claim 1, see specification paragraphs 0019 and 0028-0029 and also box 84 in Figure 4.
- For support of limitation (d) in claim 1, see specification paragraphs 0028-0030 and also boxes 84 and 88 in Figure 4.
- For support of limitation (e) in claim 1, see specification paragraph 0030 and also boxes 86 and 90 in Figure 4.
- For support of limitation (f) in claim 1, see specification paragraph 0024.
- For support of subject matter in claim 2, see specification paragraphs 0021-0025 and also feature 36 in Figure 2.
- For support of subject matter in claim 3, see specification paragraph 0023.
- For support of subject matter in claim 7, see specification paragraphs 0028-0029 and also box 84 in Figure 4.

- For support of subject matter in claim 8, see specification paragraph 0030 and also box 90 in Figure 4.
- For support of subject matter in claim 9, see specification paragraphs 0025 and 0030, Figure 3, and box 90 in Figure 4.
- For support of subject matter in claim 10, see specification paragraphs 0025 and 0028-0029, Figure 3, and box 84 in Figure 4.
- For support of subject matter in claim 11, see specification paragraph 0030 and also box 90 in Figure 4.
- For support of method step (a) in claim 12, see specification paragraphs 0023-0026.
- For support of method step (b) in claim 12, see specification paragraph 0028 and also box 78 in Figure 4.
- For support of method step (c) in claim 12, see specification paragraphs 0019 and 0028-0029 and also box 84 in Figure 4.
- For support of method step (d) in claim 12, see specification paragraphs 0019 and 0028-0029 and also box 84 in Figure 4.
- For support of method step (e) in claim 12, see specification paragraphs 0028-0030 and also boxes 84 and 88 in Figure 4.
- For support of method step (f) in claim 12, see specification paragraph 0030 and also boxes 86 and 90 in Figure 4.
- For support of method step (g) in claim 12, see specification paragraph 0024.
- For support of subject matter in claim 16, see specification paragraphs 0028-0029 and also box 84 in Figure 4.
- For support of subject matter in claim 17, see specification paragraph 0030 and also box 90 in Figure 4.
- For support of subject matter in claim 18, see specification paragraphs 0025 and 0030, Figure 3, and box 90 in Figure 4.
- For support of subject matter in claim 19, see specification paragraphs 0025 and 0028-0029, Figure 3, and box 84 in Figure 4.
- For support of subject matter in claim 20, see specification paragraph 0030 and also box 90 in Figure 4.

- For support of method step (a) in claim 21, see specification paragraphs 0023-0026 and 0028 and also box 78 in Figure 4.
- For support of method step (b) in claim 21, see specification paragraphs 0019 and 0028-0029 and also box 84 in Figure 4.
- For support of method step (c) in claim 21, see specification paragraphs 0019 and 0028-0029 and also box 84 in Figure 4.
- For support of method step (d) in claim 21, see specification paragraphs 0028-0030 and also boxes 84 and 88 in Figure 4.
- For support of method step (e) in claim 21, see specification paragraph 0030 and also boxes 86 and 90 in Figure 4.
- For support of method step (f) in claim 21, see specification paragraph 0024.
- For support of subject matter in claim 22, see specification paragraphs 0028-0029 and also box 76 in Figure 4.
- For support of subject matter in claim 23, see specification paragraph 0028 and also box 82 in Figure 4.
- For support of subject matter in claim 24, see specification paragraph 0028 and also box 82 in Figure 4.
- For support of subject matter in claim 25, see specification paragraph 0022 and also feature 36 in Figure 2.
- For support of subject matter in claim 26, see specification paragraph 0030 and also box 90 in Figure 4.
- For support of subject matter in claim 27, see specification paragraph 0030 and also box 90 in Figure 4.
- For support of subject matter in claim 28, see specification paragraphs 0025 and 0028-0029, Figure 3, and box 84 in Figure 4.
- For support of subject matter in claim 29, see specification paragraph 0030 and also box 90 in Figure 4.

In view of the above, Applicants maintain that no new matter has been impermissibly added to the Application by way of Applicants' recent amendments to the claims. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that Examiner's objections to the specification and/or claims under 35 U.S.C. § 132(a) be withdrawn.

Rejections of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

Also, in the Office Action, Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 7-12, and 16-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being rendered obvious, and therefore unpatentable, by United States Patent Number 6,859,713, which was issued to Patrick Pallot on February 22, 2005 (hereinafter "Pallot"). In response, Applicants have amended all claims 1-3, 7-12, and 16-29 as set forth hereinabove.

Regarding independent claim 1 as amended, Applicants respectfully aver that Pallot neither teaches nor suggests limitation (d) in claim 1. (Applicants' Application, see specification paragraphs 0008-0009 and 0028-0030 and also boxes 84 and 88 in Figure 4.) In view of such, Applicants further aver that independent claim 1 is not obvious in view of Pallot. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that Examiner's rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn. Furthermore, since claims 2, 3, and 7-11 are dependent on independent claim 1, Applicants also request that Examiner's rejections of claims 2, 3, and 7-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn as well.

In addition, regarding independent claim 12 as amended, Applicants respectfully aver that Pallot neither teaches nor suggests method step (e) in claim 12. (Applicants' Application, see specification paragraphs 0008-0009 and 0028-0030 and also boxes 84 and 88 in Figure 4.) In view of such, Applicants further aver that independent claim 12 is not obvious in view of Pallot. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that Examiner's rejection of claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn. Furthermore, since claims 16-20 are dependent on independent claim 12, Applicants also request that Examiner's rejections of claims 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn as well.

Lastly, regarding independent claim 21 as amended, Applicants respectfully aver that Pallot neither teaches nor suggests method step (d) in claim 21. (Applicants' Application, see specification paragraphs 0008-0009 and 0028-0030 and also boxes 84 and 88 in Figure 4.) In view of such, Applicants further aver that independent claim 21 is not obvious in view of Pallot. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that Examiner's rejection of claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn. Furthermore, since claims 22-29 are dependent on independent claim 21, Applicants also request that Examiner's rejections of claims 22-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn as well.

CONCLUSION

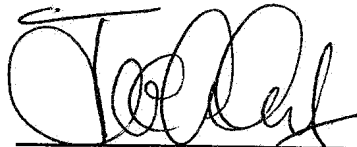
In view of the claims as amended and also the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-3, 7-12, and 16-29 are both novel and non-obvious with respect to the disclosure and teachings of Pallot and that the claims now properly comply with all statutory requirements. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that Examiner's objections and rejections in the Office Action be withdrawn and that a Notice of Allowance be issued for all claims 1-3, 7-12, and 16-29.

Also, together with this Amendment, a "Petition for an Extension of Time" (3 months) along with appropriate fee is being submitted. Receipt and entry thereof by Examiner is respectfully requested by Applicants.

Lastly, should Examiner have any questions with respect to any matter now of record, Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: September 22, 2008